

MIDDLETOWN COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

Minutes of May 18, 2010

5:00PM—Middletown Town Hall

In attendance: Nancy McAuliffe, Diane Kerins, Diana Campagna Skaggs, Susan Woythaler, Carmela Geer, Linda Phelan, Amy Cordeiro, Diane Andrews, Lisa Hansel, Richard Cambra.

Guests in attendance were: Randall Rosenbaum, Ann Gardella, Tom Erb, Christina Offenberg, Kari Corveno, Rosemarie Kraeger, Liana Fenton, Chris Savastano, Jen Vaillancourt.

Absent: Carol Cummings, Wendy Marshall

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Richard Cambra called to meeting to order at 5:00PM at the Middletown Town Hall in the Town Hall Council Chamber.

2. READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

- a. Not applicable; this is the first meeting of the Arts Committee

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Not applicable; this is the first meeting of the Arts Committee

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Introductions: Introductions were made stating name and affiliations. Some in attendance are “official” members of the committee and others also attended as interested members of the community.
- b. Review of Mission Statement---the committee will develop the Mission Statement at the next meeting
- c. Guest Speakers
 - i. **Randal Rosenbaum**, Executive Director, RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) –told the committee that RISCA is available to support and assist with arts programs in school and in the community. RISCA also has a “community arts” person who can assist in these efforts.
 - ii. **Christina Offenberg**, chair, Newport County Cultural Alliance—spoke about the Alliance and mentioned two programs: Bridge Fest August 2-5, 2010 and “Spring into Art”. She encouraged members of the Arts Committee to attend their monthly meetings, Thursday at 8:30am at the Preservation Society office.
 - iii. **Liana Ferreira Fenton**—talked about her interest in combining Science with an Arts Festival by making a connection between Science and the Arts.
 - iv. **Kari Corveno**, property manager of Oxbow Farms—said that there are over 200 children and youth under the age of 18 living at Oxbow Farms.

She mentioned several programs that are now offered to them. She would like arts programs available to them. There will be a “Chantel Day” on August 12, 2010 that will celebrate Chantel’s life.

- v. **Tom Erb**, director of *Stageright*—a MHS graduated said that in 1972 they had a traveling theatre group called “Peter Pan Players” and that there was a Middletown Arts Council then. He would like to see more Theatre Arts programs in the schools.
- d. Nomination and Election of Officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary)
 - i. Chairperson—Linda Phelan
 - ii. Vice-Chairperson—Amy Cordeiro
 - iii. Secretary—Susan Woythaler
 - a. Motion made by Linda Phelan 2nd by Carmela Geer: Passed
- e. Discussion and Brain Storming
 - i. The following ideas were brought to the table: an Arts Festival; creating an Arts District; Is there an area in town that would benefit from “redevelopment” initiatives through the Arts?; sponsor Arts Showcases in various venues around town; create an awareness of Middletown artists (all media); create an awareness and use of the State Arts Calendar; research “what is working” in RI; school funding issues in order to maintain and increase Arts offerings in the schools.
 - ii. **Nancy McAuliffe** agreed to be the liaison between the Middletown Arts Committee and the Newport County Cultural Alliance.
Richard Combra is the liaison between the Arts Committee and the Middletown Town Council.
 - iii. There is Middletown Schools Art Show May 18-20, 2010 at Aquidneck School.
 - iv. The Middletown Committee for the Arts is a one-year committee that will meet as a complete board once a month.
 - v. **For the next meeting:**
 - a. mission statement ideas (please e-mail them to the secretary for compilation to share at the June meeting)
 - b. write a paragraph about why you are on this committee (please e-mail them to the secretary for compilation to share at the June meeting)

5. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06PM
- b. Next meeting will be on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 5:00PM The Healing Cooperative, 272 Mitchell’s Lane, Middletown.

Respectfully submitted by: **Susan Woythaler**, secretary